

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1; 3, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12 and the specification are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 7 and 11 are amended to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sangeeta (U.S. Patent No. 6,395,406). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Sangeeta does not disclose or suggest a method of forming a platinum aluminide diffusion barrier on a titanium alloy substrate, as recited in independent claim 1.

Sangeeta teaches a method for preparing an aluminum alloy-containing coating composition with a slurry that contains a selected amount of aluminum combined with at least one additional slurry containing a selected amount of a second metal which forms an alloy with aluminum (abstract). Moreover, Sangeeta teaches that the slurry mixture is applied to a substrate that can be formed from a variety of metals or metal alloys (col. 5, lines 56-58). Sangeeta also teaches that the substrate maybe a super alloy that includes titanium, and Sangeeta incorporates by reference U.S. Patent No. 5,399,313 and U.S. Patent No. 4,116,723 (col. 5, line 65 - col. 6, line 3). However, these two patents, incorporated by reference, teach that titanium is incorporated at about 3 to 4% or at about 1 to 5%. Accordingly, the substrate is not at a titanium alloy, but is simply a metal alloy that contains a small amount of titanium. For example, a titanium alloy substrate may contain titanium at about 40% or more. Thus, because Sangeeta fails to disclose or suggest a titanium alloy substrate, Sangeeta fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent

claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over Sangeeta. As such, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Also, because the priority date of Applicants' invention is October 21, 2002, Sangeeta is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), but is prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The above arguments are hereby reiterated for the traversal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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